

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:MILI, CA, NATO

SUBJECT:TRUDEAU PRESS CONFERENCE - DEFENSE MATTERS

DURING COURSE OF WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 5 PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU SAID THAT HE HAD ASSURED PRESIDENT FORD OF CONTINUING CANADIAN COMMITMENT TO NATO AND NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE. HE STATED THAT HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT THAT CANADA HAD JUST DECIDED TO INCREASE NEXT YEAR'S MILITARY BUDGET BY 11.2.

TRUDEAU WENT ON TO OUTLINE THE FOUR PRINCIPAL CANADIAN DEFENSE TASKS (I.E., 1) CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY, 2) NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE, 3) NATO AND, 4) PEACEKEEPING) AND INDICATED THAT THE CANADIAN MILITARY WOULD CONTINUE TO FULFILL THESE TASKS DESPITE RISING INFLATION. HE NOTED THAT GIVEN CANADA'S SMALL POPULATION AND THE NEED FOR VERSATILITY IN THE CANADIAN MILITARY, IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR CANADA TO CONCENTRATE ON LIGHT MOBILE-TYPE FORCES AND EQUIPMENT.

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IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT NORAD RENEWAL,
TRUDEAU SAID THAT THE MATTER WAS STILL BEFORE THE CANADIAN
CABINET BUT THAT IT WAS "PRETTY SAFE TO SPECULATE THAT
NORAD WILL BE RENEWED BY CANADA". KISSINGER

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